

1-6, 9-15, 17. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for disrupting cells or tissue comprising placing a sample comprising eukaryotic cells or tissue in a container, adding a nucleic acid stabilizing solution to said container, placing a disruption element having an outer dimension of at least about 6mm and being only slightly smaller than the inside dimension of said container into said container, and employing a said disruption device for 45 seconds or less, removing cellular debris and other non-RNA materials from said sample, decanting the supernatant from said container, and extracting RNA from the decanted supernatant, and wherein said disruption element is in mechanically imparted rolling contact with the inner surface of said container and said sample and wherein said rolling contact is not induced by sonication or vibration.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the sample on which the disruption device is employed is a lymph node sample.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 conducted during the course of a surgical procedure on a sample obtained from a patient during the course of the procedure.